

SUNDAY'S TRIBUNE



COMICS

Charlie Brown and the gang bid farewell

Cartoonist Charles Schulz and his unforgettable characters take a bow in the historic, final 'Peanuts' strip.



SCIENCE SECTION

Ages of discovery

Science transforms our understanding of the world around us—but not always with the most comforting results.



SPORTS

Ex-Dallas cc Landry dies
Football legend led America's Team to five Super Bowls.

MAGAZINE

Disabled, but not defined

Tammy Gravenhorst is turning the discussion about treating disabilities upside down.

TRAVEL



No introduction needed

Our Great Cities of North America series finds fame and fortune in L.A.

FAMILY

Far, far from home

For the children, studying or traveling abroad is an adventure; for the parents, a time of worrying and letting go.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Affairs of the heart

Fanciful help finding your musical mate, Shakespeare and love, plus 10 great movie kisses.

HOME & GARDEN

Is a flower still ...

... a flower if its fragrance is missing? Years of breeding for color may be to blame.

WEATHER

Sunday: Wet snow; highs 30-39.

Sunday night: Snow; lows 20-27.

Monday: Light snow; high 30.

Report, Sec. 4, Back page.

BOB COLLINS ~ 1942-2000

So long to a friendly voice

Hundreds share tears, laughs, memories of beloved radio host

By Kirsten Scharnberg
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Bob Collins would have approved of his send-off.

As more than a thousand people gathered on Saturday in the magnificent cathedral where Chicago has bid farewell to some of its most beloved public figures, including the legendary Harry Caray and Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, every detail of the somber mass exemplified this Windy City where Collins made his home and earned his fame.

The bagpipes—haunting and beautiful and Irish Catholic to

Bob Greene remembers his longtime friend. **Page 2.**

Families mourn two others who died in plane collision. **Page 11.**

the last strain—signaled the start of the service.

The nearby subway's Red Line—that gritty symbol of a town built on the backs of hard-working common folk—thundered nearby.

And the mourners—from governors and mayors to pews full

of regular people off the streets of downtown Chicago—bowed their heads and dried their eyes.

"Oh, how this man loved Chicago," said James Dowdle, a retired Tribune Co. executive vice president who had worked for years with Collins at WGN radio. "And that's not easy for a kid from Florida."

As much as Bob Collins, 57, loved Chicago, Chicago loved him back. And as much as the top-rated morning radio host loved to joke that he had adopted this city on the lake, the city on the lake had adopted him, too.

SEE COLLINS, PAGE 11



Dan Bitton comforts Bob Collins' wife, Christine, after he led a prayer during services for the radio host at Holy Name Cathedral on Saturday. Bitton is part owner of the plane Collins was flying.



Tribune photos by George Thompson

Hersey High senior Marcello Robinson, 17, gets in costume (above) for his lead role as Jim in "Big River." Most days, the actor and class president gets up at 6 a.m. to iron his school clothes (below).

Rewriting his life's script

At 13, he pleaded his case to a juvenile judge: Please get me out of Cabrini. At 17, he's made the most of the opportunity.

By Lisa Black
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

When Marcello Robinson was 13, he and three friends would stare out the 7th-floor windows of their Cabrini-Green apartments and watch gang members show off their fancy cars, deal drugs at the corner, and scurry away at the sight of police.

The boys had cemented a friendship amid the gloom of their situation and made an informal pact.

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In fact, Robinson became so des-

perate that he pleaded with state child-welfare officials to take custody of him.

And in an unusual move, a judge agreed to make him a ward of the state.

Four years later, Robinson, 17, is senior class president at Hersey High School, a budding actor who elicits occasional shrieks of recognition for his America Online commercials, and is well on his way to making good on the pact.

He has done it with no support from his parents—or even those early friends—but with help from a lot of people who believe in him. He has not received a birthday card



from his mother in four years and has spoken to his father only a handful of times in his life. He lives in a state home in Des Plaines.

But Karen DiVito, whose son has become friends with Robinson at

SEE TEEN, PAGE 12

'95 Ryan shakeup linked to Bauer

Inspector general office disbanded after memo

By Laurie Cohen
and Gary Marx
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITERS

In 1995, then-Secretary of State George Ryan disbanded his inspector general's office after top aides told him that investigators had done their job so well that employee corruption was under control.

The shakeup was recommended by Dean Bauer, Ryan's inspector general, and another high-ranking official, according to a memo obtained by the Tribune. The memo came just months after Bauer scuttled a series of investigations into employee misconduct to protect Ryan, now Illinois' governor, from personal and political embarrassment, federal authorities have charged.

"During the last four years, the department of the inspector general has effectively curtailed serious internal complaints," the May 1995 memo said. In addition, improved training of supervisors in handling "employee indiscretions" has "vastly reduced the necessity for a full-time contingent" of investigators, the memo stated.

But, in fact, employee wrongdoing—including accepting bribes in exchange for issuing driver's licenses to unqualified applicants—was rampant at the time, according to federal court records. Seventeen people, including eight former secretary of state employees, recently have been convicted in a federal investigation known as Operation Safe Road, partly for illegal activities begun before the memo was written.

Federal authorities have alleged that as much as \$170,000 in bribes wound up in Ryan's gubernatorial campaign.

Ryan's decision to dismantle the inspector general's office has attracted renewed attention since Bauer's indictment on charges of repeatedly covering up misconduct to shield his longtime friend.

In the indictment, federal prosecutors

SEE RYAN, PAGE 18

Nuptials going 1st class the 2nd time around

By Bonnie Miller Rubin
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

The first time Pat Sand got married, she was 23, her reception was at a VFW hall and the menu included mostaccioli and mashed potatoes. She vaguely recalls wearing something with pleats.

Last November, when the 42-year-old Sand tied the knot again, it was in Hawaii, in an exquisite ivory tulle gown, flanked by the groom's two children. Guests dined on sushi and toasted the newlyweds with a rare vintage wine.

"The first time it was based on my parents' budget. This time it was for me. It was our money, our taste and it was just a lot more fun," said Sand,

a sales manager for Dun & Bradstreet.

With the approach of Valentine's Day—one of the most popular days for popping the question—more American couples will be contemplating a repeat trip to the altar. In another era, that might have meant slipping away to City Hall to be discreetly married by a justice of the peace or eloping to Las Vegas to tie the knot at a chapel on the Strip.

But with 46 percent of all weddings involving at least one partner who has been married before, the market is simply too lucrative to ignore. With the overall U.S. wedding industry raking in \$30 billion to \$50 billion annually, that ringing

SEE WEDDINGS, PAGE 9



Tribune photo by Charles Osgood

Terry King tries on the gown for her May wedding, which will be her second. Second weddings have become big business.

Plan to burn radioactive trash steams Wyoming

By Judy Graham
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

JACKSON, Wyo.—A plan to burn toxic waste—some of it laced with plutonium—in an incinerator some 100 miles from Yellowstone National Park has riled the residents of this Old West resort community, including actor Harrison Ford, celebrity lawyer Gerry Spence and World Bank President James Wolfensohn.

They are among those contributing to environmental groups suing the federal government to halt construction of the incinerator, which opponents claim could spew radioactive particles across thousands of acres of forests and the Grand Tetons.

Until last summer, many resi-

dents of Jackson, a popular Western vacation spot and playground for the rich and famous, were blissfully unaware that a gigantic nuclear complex lay due west over the mountains, at the Energy Department's Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory.

Then people in Jackson heard about the department's plans to build an incinerator on its 890-square-mile compound in the Idaho desert, where for 50

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PAGE 2

Bob Greene on WGN host and friend Bob Collins

"The place was packed, and I can tell you for a fact that I wasn't the reason. He was."

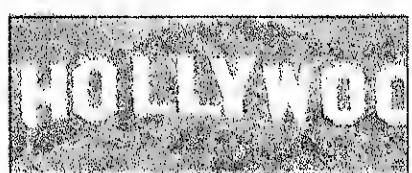
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... a flower if its fragrance is missing? Years of breeding for color may be to blame.

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Monday: Flurries end; 30/22.

■ Report, Sec. 4, Back page.

Bauer tied to '95 Ryan shakeup

Inspector general office disbanded after memo issued

By Laurie Cohen and Gary Marx
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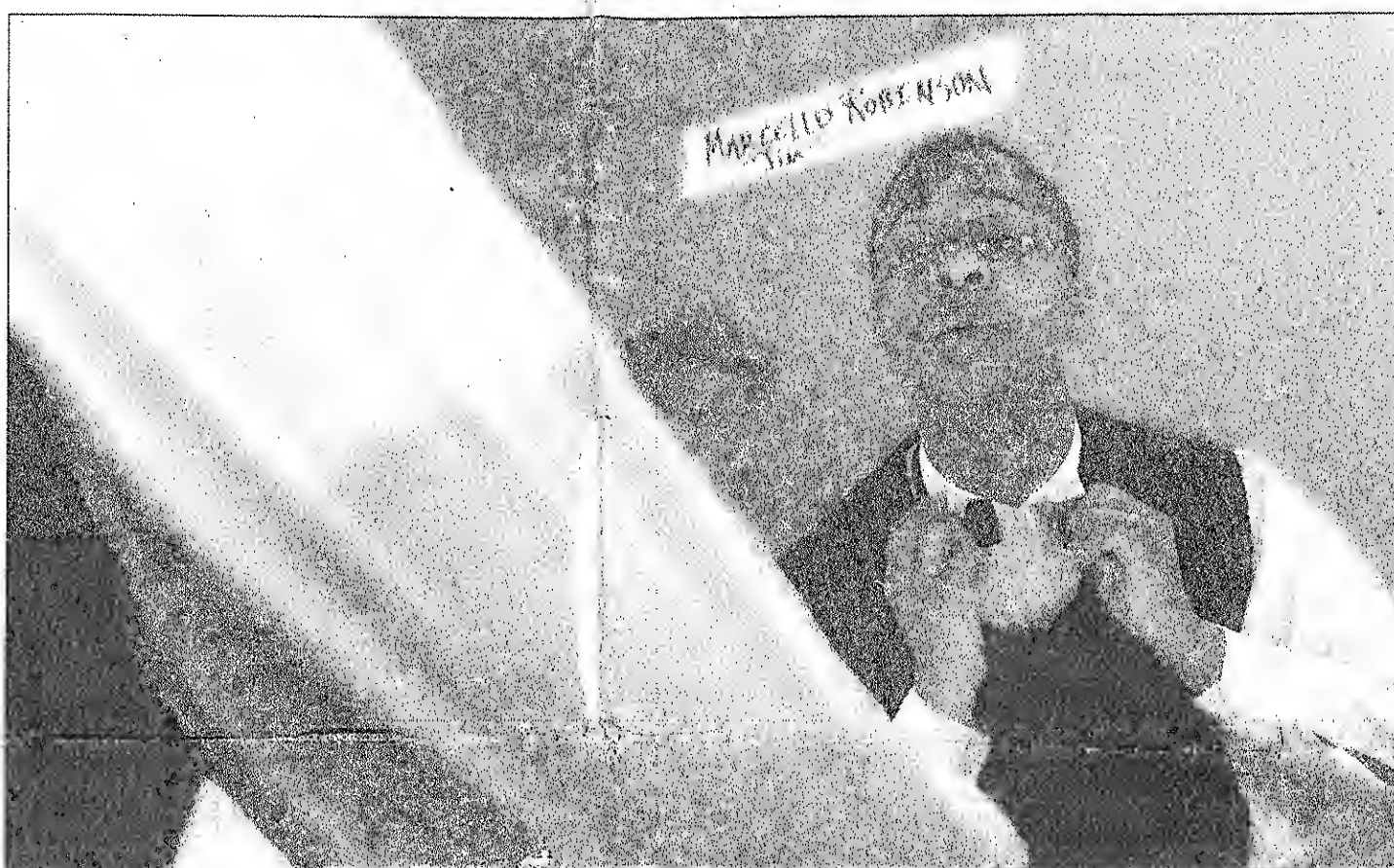
duct to shield his longtime friend.

In the indictment, federal prosecutors specifically noted that the reorganization was carried out "pursuant to a policy decision" by Ryan. Federal authorities recently obtained the May 1995 memo through a subpoena to the secretary of state's office, now headed by Jesse White, sources said.

Ryan spokesman Dennis Culleton declined to comment on details of the reorganization of

SEE RYAN, PAGE 18

'When I think of Marcello, I think of an old man in a young man's body.'



Hersey High senior Marcello Robinson, 17, gets in costume (above) for his lead role as Jim in "Big River," a play telling the Huckleberry Finn story. Most days, the actor and class president gets up at 6 a.m. to iron his school clothes (below).

Rewriting his life's script

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home in Des Plaines.

But Karen DiVito, whose son has become friends with Robinson at Hersey, has hosted him many weekends in the family's Arlington

SEE TEEN, PAGE 12

'The rules have changed. People used to do it quietly, but not anymore. Chances are if you've been divorced, you've been through a lot. Now that you've found love again, you want to celebrate.'

Beth Ramirez, publisher of *Bride Again*, about second and third marriages

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But with 46 percent of all weddings involving at least one partner who has been married before, the market is simply too lucrative to ignore. With the overall U.S. wedding industry raking in \$30 billion to \$50 billion annually, that ringing sound you hear may be wedding bells, but it's also the ka-ching of cash registers.

"The rules have changed," said Beth Ramirez, publisher of *Bride Again*, which bills itself as the only magazine designed for "encore brides." (The euphemism is to nuptials as "pre-owned" is to cars.) "People used to do it

SEE WEDDINGS, PAGE 9



Terry King tries on the gown for her May wedding, which will be her second.



Teen

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
Heights townhouse.

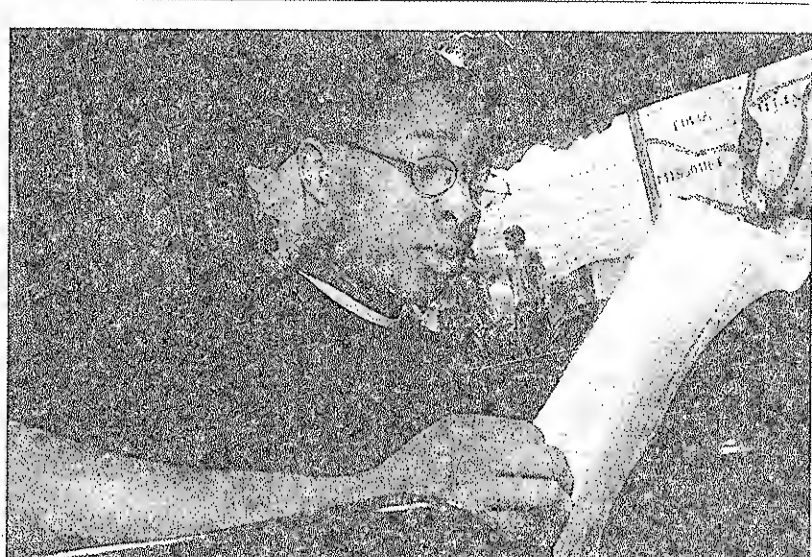
"When I think of Marcello, I think of an old man in a young man's body," she said. "He's tremendously focused. I admire his determination because it comes from within."

Six months ago, Robinson visited his old neighborhood in the Chicago Housing Authority development, and what he found shocked him. While his mother is straightening up after years of drug abuse, his friends had become everything they despised in grade school.

"I couldn't believe it. They're all in gangs. They all smoke marijuana. They dropped out in their junior year," he said.

Or maybe he's not so surprised. More than once, his mother has asked him to return home and has threatened to challenge his placement at Maryville Academy in Des Plaines. But each time, Robinson would insist that he's better off now and his mother would fail to show in court.

"I'm learning from a lot of people's mistakes," said Robinson, whose mother was 14 when he



Tribune photos by George Thompson

Marcello Robinson, described by friends and mentors as "driven," brings a senior class council meeting to order (left) at Hersey High School. A class leader since his arrival at Hersey, Robinson also has single-handedly found an agent and begun an acting career.

was born, the first of 11 children. "I've seen what can happen."

He's determined, say those who know him, to follow his dream of becoming an actor, TV talk show host or radio broadcaster.

"This may sound crazy," he says, "but I feel like there's a plan

for me."

Those who've guided him see it, too.

"He's been through an enormous miserable time," said Dan Lane, 51, a Palatine businessman and mentor to Robinson. "He's been through some awful things

and was pushed around an awful lot by grown-ups. In effect, his choice was to either go back to Cabrini and the family ties and pulls, wacky as they are, or to give that all up and move in with strangers, essentially. Maryville is a nice place but it's rather cold.

"In his view, there was no choice."

Lane was a volunteer tutor at Cabrini when he met Robinson, then in 4th grade. Over the years, he has helped direct the young man, bringing him home for weekends and once for a few months. He found him street smart but naive.

Robinson was astounded to see Lane pay by credit card for gasoline at the pump. He was accustomed to seeing cash exchanged before any services were delivered.

"The same thing happened at a restaurant," Lane said. "I got him this big giant sundae. There was something—like, you got the food but didn't pay for it on the spot. He was not used to the fact that people behaved civilly with an understanding that people trust you and trust me."

By the time he was 13, Robinson was missing weeks of school at a time to baby-sit seven of his siblings in their five-bedroom Cabrini apartment. If his mother hadn't returned by 6 p.m., he would find something to cook—chicken, spaghetti or rice.

Cynthia Fitzpatrick, principal at Von Schiller School, where Robinson attended through 8th grade, said she talked to the boy's mother about his absences. Still, the mother would often come in the middle of the day to take him home to baby-sit.

But "he was always driven. He didn't seem to let the environment bother him. You could tell he liked fine arts. He's a very personable young man," Fitzpatrick said.

One day, a social worker visited the apartment to check out a neglect complaint. The worker found a grandmother home with eight children, but their mother was on drugs, the apartment was infested with cockroaches and there was no food, according to a report dated July 8, 1996, that was prepared by Lutheran Social Services for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

Robinson told the worker he was unhappy and wanted out, despite being told he was old enough to remain at home with his mother.

Cook County Public Guardian Patrick Murphy said Robinson's request was not so surprising—other children have voiced a desire to leave such circumstances. But the fact that his request was accommodated was highly unusual, Murphy said.

"DCFS would just as soon see the kid stay at home," he said. "The judge was very impressed with him. He was taking care of all these kids and was a straight-A student."

His potential to excel if removed from Cabrini-Green is what drove then-Juvenile Court Judge Martha Miles to approve his move.

DCFS would not comment on Robinson's case.

"His choice was, is he going to stay there and try to save these kids and be a parent, or save himself?" Lane said. "I told him, 'You can't do all this.' It's like being on the Titanic and there are only so many lifeboats."

Robinson, who later struggled with mixed feelings over leaving, would draw on a single recollection of Cabrini for assurance that he had made the right decision. He and a friend were sitting on the 7th-floor "ramp" or balcony outside their apartment, watching a gang fight below.

"All of a sudden a guy came out in the hallway and pulled a gun on us. He asked if we were in the gang. We thought he was a gang member," Robinson said.

He turned out to be a police officer. "I had never been frightened that bad in my life," Robinson said.

But adjusting to a new life was not trouble-free either. Arriving at Maryville during his freshman year, Robinson was sulky and refused to follow directions, such as taking out the garbage or washing dishes.

"At my home, I was more of the adult," he said. "I didn't have to answer to anybody."

He lived in the most restrictive section of Maryville, where teens are observed for psychological or behavioral problems for six months. Staff members pulled Robinson aside on more than one occasion and reminded him that he had to abide by their rules.

"When he came, one of the

things we said was, 'God gave you some talents. Use them or lose them,'" said Rev. John Smyth, the academy's executive director. "With that voice, he came to church and started reading." He sings bass in the choir.

Robinson has struggled with his grades off and on, and he currently ranks in the middle of his class with a C-plus average, said Karen Smith, a Hersey guidance counselor.

"Part of the academic deficiency and gaps have come from the constant turmoil in his life," she said. "But he's had good attendance. That's what happens, when they become a ward of the state, their lives stabilize."

Within months of starting school, he had joined the student council, successfully auditioned for his first play and served as president of the African-American club, Kujenga. He also has served as president of his junior and senior classes.

This year, he has packed his course schedule, leaving no official time for lunch (one teacher allows him a 15-minute break to go to the cafeteria). Play rehearsals take up his time after school, and then he works two evenings a week at a mortgage company, returning to Maryville by 9:30 p.m. The Doc Martens shoes and Abercrombie & Fitch clothes he wears come from his earnings, and he says he sometimes wishes his classmates recognized that he has no wealthy parents paying his way.

To follow his dream, Robinson did his research and found an agency, Blaine & Associates in Park Ridge, to help him get work, then used more of his earnings to hire a portfolio photographer.

Maryville staff members drive him to appointments and help him memorize his lines, said Angela Zinzer, who works at the home Robinson shares with eight other teenage boys. "He's just an average kid who has a lot of activities and a different motivation," she said. "We try to provide a normal life for him."

Talent agent Paige Ehlman said she noticed from the start that Robinson always enters the agency alone and is nicely dressed. "Most of the actors we have are with the typical stage moms who follow them around," she said. "He's always on his own. He seems comfortable with just about anybody."

Robinson has appeared in background scenes of "Never Been Kissed," "Return to Me," "Light It Up," and "Message in a Bottle," during which he was promoted to a bit part as a pie-thrower.

In January, he was cast in the lead role of Jim in the Huckleberry Finn story "Big River," an all-state theatrical production at Illinois State University. He was among 45 students chosen out of the 300 who auditioned.

"I think his motivation comes from he knows where he came from and he doesn't want that," said Pam Jones, a Hersey counselor who sponsors the Kujenga club.

He talks little about his past to friends. "He's had a hard background. Why bring up the bad things?" said Mike Puzen, 17, a senior. "He made a name for himself on his own. He has an idea, he acts on the idea. He's not afraid to try something different."

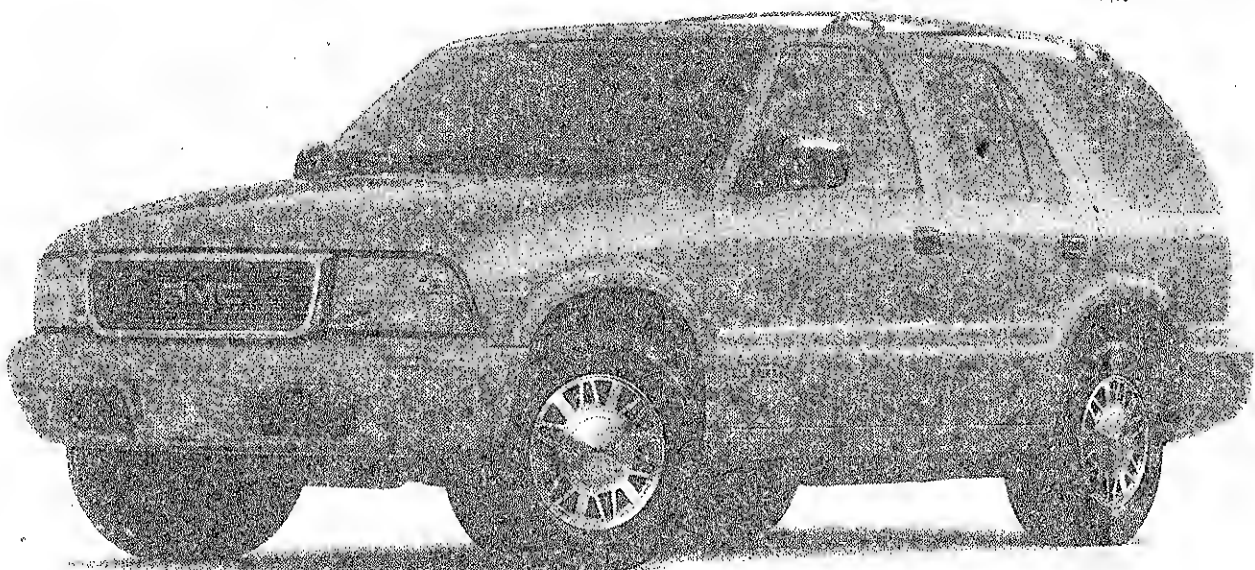
But he's also a stickler for finishing projects. Adam Ruch, a senior, remembers a school dance during their sophomore year. "We hadn't sold tickets yet—it was our first day for ticket sales—and he gets worried it won't be a success," Ruch said. By the last day, tickets were sold out.

Now, Robinson is penciling in the next steps in his life. He hopes to be accepted by the University of California at Los Angeles. The state will pay his full tuition, but officials said that wards usually stay closer to home because of the mandate for a mentor to oversee their progress. In Robinson's case, however, they're hoping to find a mentor in California.

Robinson has noted in his calendar that he will graduate June 5, and he intends to be on his way to California four days later.

Reflecting on his life, he concludes, "I haven't changed. I'm the same Marcello I was in Cabrini. I think I'll always be the same person."

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